

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for therapeutically treating a subject selected from the group consisting of a young mammal at the age of weaning, a young mammal suffering from milk crust, a mammal treated with antibiotics, a mammal suffering from food allergy, ~~an aged mammal, [[and]] a mammal with a short intestine, and a mammal suffering from a disease or disorder selected from the group consisting of acidosis, osteoporosis and diarrhea,~~ said method comprising administering to said subject a food product comprising a combination of at least one polyol and an amount of polydextrose effective to reduce lactic acid accumulation in the colon by sustaining and controlling fermentation throughout the colon of said subject.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing the pH throughout the colon.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in reducing putrefactive fermentation throughout the colon.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in increasing the amount of butyrate throughout the colon.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in increasing tolerance to probiotic lactic acid bacteria without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced lactose intolerance without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced food allergy without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced celiac disease without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing the risk of lactic acid induced inflammatory diseases in the colon without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in normalizing the microbial community throughout the colon without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

14. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 [[14]], wherein said polydextrose and said polyol are administered in synergistically effective amounts.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of lactitol, xylitol, maltitol, sorbitol and isomalt.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said polyol is lactitol.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of human beings, pet animals, farm animals, laboratory animals and zoo animals.

20-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said food composition is a sour milk product.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is hydrogenated polydextrose.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is purified.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is selected from the group consisting of non-hydrogenated polydextrose, hydrogenated polydextrose and non-hydrogenated or hydrogenated polydextrose which has been subject to purification and mixtures thereof.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of said polyol to said polydextrose ranges from about 1:10 to 10:1.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein polydextrose and polyol are added to said food product in synergistically effective amounts to control the accumulation of lactic acid throughout the colon of a mammal, and the food containing said polydextrose and polyol is administered to a mammal.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein polydextrose and polyol are added to said food product in synergistically effective amounts to reduce putrefactive fermentation in the colon of a mammal when food containing said polydextrose and polyol is administered to a mammal.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the ratio of polyol to polydextrose is from 1:5 to about 5:1.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein reducing the lactic acid accumulation in the colon results in sustained and controlled fermentation throughout the colon of said subject.

36 - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon of a subject with a risk for imbalanced colon fermentation, comprising administering to a subject selected from the group consisting of, a mammal treated with antibiotics, a mammal suffering from celiac disease, a mammal suffering from food allergy, ~~an aged mammal~~ and a mammal with a short intestine an amount of polydextrose in combination with an amount of at least one polyol effective to reduce lactic acid accumulation in the colon of said subject.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said polydextrose is administered in a food composition selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout.

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38 [[39]], wherein said polydextrose is administered in a food composition selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said orally administrable food composition is selected from the group consisting of a dry, or semidry or liquid food product, a powder, a spray, a syrup, a sugar substitute, a candy or sweet, a dairy product, a frozen dairy product, a meat product, a health drink, a baby food, a pet food and an animal feed.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein said food composition is a sour food or feed product.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein said food composition is selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout.

45. (Currently Amended) A method for therapeutically treating a mammal with celiac disease and suffering from a disease or disorder caused by accumulation of laetic acid in the colon, said method comprising administering to said subject a food product comprising an

amount of polydextrose effective to reduce the lactic acid accumulation in the colon by sustaining and controlling fermentation throughout the colon of said subject.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 45, wherein said polydextrose is administered in combination with at least one polyol.

47. (Previously Presented) A method for therapeutically treating a subject suffering from a disease or disorder caused by accumulation of lactic acid in the colon, the disease or disorder selected from the group consisting of acidosis, inflammation and diarrhea, said method comprising administering to said subject a food product comprising a combination of at least one polyol and an amount of polydextrose effective to reduce the lactic acid accumulation in the colon by sustaining and controlling fermentation throughout the colon of said subject.

48. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon of a subject with a risk for imbalanced colon fermentation, comprising administering to a subject selected from the group consisting of a young mammal at the age of weaning and a young mammal suffering from milk crust an amount of polydextrose effective to reduce lactic acid accumulation in the colon of said subject.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said polydextrose is administered in a food composition selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said food composition is a sour food or feed product.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said food composition is selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout.

52. (Withdrawn) An orally administrable food composition for preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon of a subject with a risk for imbalanced colon fermentation, comprising administering to a subject selected from the group consisting of a young mammal at the age of weaning and a young mammal suffering from milk crust an amount of polydextrose effective to reduce lactic acid accumulation in the colon of said subject.

53. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 52, wherein said orally administrable food composition is selected from the group consisting of a dry, or semidry or liquid food product, a powder, a spray, a syrup, a sugar substitute, a candy or sweet, a frozen dairy product, a meat product, a health drink, a baby food, crout, a dairy product, the dairy produce including yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk and dry milk.

54. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 52, wherein said polydextrose is administered in combination with at least one polyol.